[Translation]

Losses suffered by NDTV

2615. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government allowed concessions to NDTV for its programmes called 'The World This Week';

(b) if so, the details of concessions allowed; and

(c) the other programmes on which such concessions were allowed during the last two years and the estimated loss to the exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) The programme 'World This Week' was placed in "A" category for the purpose of sponsorship fee and in "A Special" category for the spot buy rates.

(c) No other programme has been allowed similar terms during the period;

Extraction of Palm Oil

2616. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Technology Development Board has decided to provide financial assistance for extraction of palm oil by using latest techniques;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount targetted to be provided during 1997-98 for this purpose;

(d) whether the Government are formulating any comprehensive scheme for obtaining optimum production in crushing of other edible oil seeds by using latest techniques;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the schemes formulated in regard to other oilseeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) The Technology Development Board had received an application from Andhra Pradesh Cooperative Oil Seeds Growers' Federation Ltd., Hyderabad seeking financial assistance from the Board for the establishment of a 10 Ton Fresh Fruit Bunches per hour Palm Oil Mill at Ashwaraopet in Andhra Pradesh. The Palm Oil Mill is proposed to be installed by the Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Thiruvananthapuram. The Co-operative Federation has entered into a MOU with the RRL, Thiruvananathapuram for this purpose. As against the total project cost of Rs. 11.60 cr., the Cooperative Federation has requested for a loan assistance of Rs. 3.40 cr. from the Technology Development Board. The Board has approved a loan of Rs. 3.40 cr. and a sum of Rs. 1.70 cr. has been released as first instalment so far during the year 1997-98.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulse, functioning under the Ministry of Agriculture, has been financially supporting Palm Oil and other Edible Oil Processing Programmes both for the field demonstrations and for initiating new R&D Programmes. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, the Mission released Rs. 25.88 cr. for new R&D Programmes in Post Harvest Technology In Oil Seeds.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Demolition of Houses in Villages of Chandigarh

2617. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received memorandum and representations from Sarpanches of villages and some other organisations protesting against the demolition of houses outside 'Lal Dora' of the villages of Union Territory Chandigarh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected from Chandigarh Administration and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Appointment of Enquiry Commission

2618. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of enquiry commissions appointed to enquire into causes of accidents and derailments of trains, during the last 3 years;

(b) the findings of the enquiry commission and action taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the enquiry commissions;

(c) the reasons for the unabated continuance of accidents and derailments; and

(d) the amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) During the last three years, only one Commission of Enquiry under Justice N. Venkatachala, a retired Judge of Supreme Court has been appointed by the Ministry of Railways to enquire into the causes of accidents involving (i) collision of Up 3151 Jammu Tawi Express against Up BKSC Goods train on Eastern Railway on 1-6-1995, and (ii) derailment of train No. 8448 Hirakhand Express which occurred on S.E. Railway on 1-6-1995. The commission concluded rash and negligent behaviour of the station staff at Kalubathan on Eastern Railway and unrenewed bad track condition in Sambalpur Division of South Eastern Railway respectively, being responsible for these accidents. The commission made the following major suggestions for checking collisions and derailments on Railways.

Suggestions for Checking collisions:

(i) Track circuiting

(ii) Auxillary Warning System

(iii) Mobile Radio Communication

(iv) Solid State Interlocking

(v) Use of pre-stressed reinforced concrete sleepers

(vi) Ensuring supply of quality spare parts for railway maintenance etc.

Suggestions for checking derailments :

(i) Thorough detection of rail flaws.

(ii) Making good of shortage in track maintenance gangs

(iii) Track renewal

(iv) Improving infrastructure and other facilities in the train examination depots.

(v) Timely action to prevent spring breakages

(vi) Provision of additional washing lines/pit lines at all sizable carriage sheds.

(vii) Posting of technically qualified persons as TXRs and avoid indiscriminate promotions of fitters etc. as TXR.

(viii) Ensuring adequate supply of simple stores at all carriages depots.

(ix) Check on introduction of new coaching service.

(x) Periodical cadre review.

All these recommendations have been accepted and implemented by the Ministry of Railways. An Action Taken Report together with the Report of the commission has been laid on the Table of the Sabha on 20th December 1996.

(c) Despite all out efforts to contain them, accidents on the railways occur mainly due to human error, equipment failures, sabotage and other incidental factors.

(d) Rs. 26.52 lakhs.

[Translation]

Full Time Programmes on LPT

2619. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to telecast full time regular programmes through Low Power T.V. Transmission centres in Devaria, Gorakhpur districts of Eastern Uttar Paradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Governement propose to start these channel under a time bound programme; and

(d) if so, the time by which these channels are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) While a High Power TV transmitter (HPT) at Gorakhpur and a Low Power TV transmitter (LPT) at Deoria are, at present, operational in these districts and providing regular transmission of National network programmes and Regional service of Uttar Pradesh, there is no approved scheme, at present, to relay any other channels from these transmitters.

Scheme for Thermal Power Plant

2620. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to make the thermal power plants of the country pollution free and to increase their efficiency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and